

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 156661

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRESIDENT
BOURGUIBA

REF: TUNIS 4465

1. DURING YOUR NEXT CALL ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, YOU MAY
DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN DISCUSSING UPCOMING EVENTS
RELATED TO ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF DISENGAGE-
MENT IS ONLY A BEGINNING, ALBEIT AN IMPORTANT ONE, TO
PROCESS OF PEACEMAKING IN MIDDLE EAST. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT
DISENGAGEMENT WILL PRODUCE A CALMER ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIA-
TIONS ON BASIC ISSUES SEPARATING ISRAEL FROM THE ARAB
STATES. WE ALSO HOPE THAT DISENGAGEMENT WILL HELP CREATE
THE HABIT OF NEGOTIATION AND WILL PROVIDE SOME BASIS FOR
CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE PARTIES WHICH WILL MAKE THE NEXT
STEPS EASIER.

3. THERE WERE THREE MAIN PURPOSES BEHIND THE PRESIDENT'S
TRIP TO THE AREA: IT SYMBOLIZED THE COMMITMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES TO WORK FOR PEACE AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPOR-
TANCE OF WHAT LIES AHEAD; IT SERVED TO CONSOLIDATE THE NEW
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 156661

RELATIONSHIPS WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP IN THE ARAB

WORLD AND, FINALLY, IT GAVE THE PRESIDENT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TOP LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON BROAD TERM STRATEGY FOR A SETTLEMENT AND THUS DEEPENED THE AREA OF UNDERSTANDING ON HOW WE SEE THE PROCESS PROCEEDING.

4. LOOKING TOWARD A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHICH PROVIDES AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS, WE PLAN TO CONDUCT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES WHICH WE HOPE WILL YIELD UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THE NEXT STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN LATE JULY, AND WE HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH HIM AMONG OTHER THINGS THE ISRAELI-JORDANIAN ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT. AFTER ALLON'S VISIT WE EXPECT THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI ALSO PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN AUGUST, FOLLOWED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD.

5. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS WE WILL TRY TO WORK TOWARD A CONSENSUS ON HOW TO PROCEED. IN REGARD TO THE PALESTINIAN ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE CONFERENCE TO DECIDE. WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND BUT THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES ARE DIVIDED AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THEY WANT OR WOULD ACCEPT. WE RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT ANY SETTLEMENT AND THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO IT MUST FIND A WAY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

6. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS EAGER TO SEE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENE. THEY WISH TO BE SEEN AS INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THERE MUST BE FLEXIBILITY ABOUT NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES; THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO UTILIZE WHATEVER PROCEDURES AND FORUMS CAN PRODUCE PRACTICAL RESULTS, AND TO PROCEED ON THE PRAGMATIC, STEP-BY-STEP BASIS THAT HAS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL SO FAR. THE U.S. FOR ITS PART INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS ACTIVE ROLE WITH THE PARTIES IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE CONTINUING MOVEMENT. WE REMAIN FIRMLY COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR A FINAL JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 156661

THE MIDDLE EAST. INGERSOLL

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